

PATENT
450100-03290

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present response is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,980,914 to Kunugi, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,850,453 to Klayman et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,438,414 to Blachot.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,850,453 to Kunugi, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,850,453 to Klayman et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,438,414 to Blachot and U.S. Patent No. 6,108,430 to Kurisu.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein a cutoff frequency of the low pass filter means is selected to be not lower than 2kHz and not higher than 6kHz and attenuation of the first audio signal into the attenuator means is adjusted by the attenuator means...”

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As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 5,850,453 to Kunugi, et al. (hereinafter merely "Kunugi") relates to a sound field correcting system for correcting multi-path frequency-characteristic distortion in an acoustic reproducing system. The level and delay of an original signal are adjusted and superimposed on the original signal so as to obtain a signal which, when reproduced by a loudspeaker, yields a sound pattern at a listening point having a flat frequency characteristic.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 5,850,453 to Klayman et al. (hereinafter, merely "Klayman") relates to acoustic correction processing on a pair of left and right input signals to compensate for spatial distortion as a function of frequency when said input signals are reproduced through speakers in a sound system.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 4,438,414 to Blachot (hereinafter merely "Blachot") relates to a tone control circuit having several parallel channels each containing an electronic potentiometer.

Applicants submit that the cited art, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Applicants note that Kunugi, Klayman, and Blachot each describe methods of achieving an acoustic correction. In the method of achieving acoustic correction, the effect of the acoustic characteristics depends on the method.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application differs from Kunugi, Klayman, and Blachot. With regard to Kunugi, output (3-6) of adder (3-4) changes in Figure 12 when there is a delay though delay (3-1) is inserted.

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The content described in column 9, lines 3-5 of Kunugi is "withing the frequency range higher than the cutoff frequency F_0 of 2KHz for instance, the sound reflection factor has a tendency of decreasing" and cutoff frequency F_0 of the low pass filter (3-13) is not selected by 2KHz.

The difference sound field doesn't similarly become the output frequency response of the present application in Figure 10 of Kunugi. In addition, output (2-4) frequency response of Figure 10 is a frequency response when high pass filter (2-9) of Figure 9 is used, and is obviously different from the output frequency response of the present application.

Applicants submit that the frequency response in Klayman is also different from the present invention. Regarding the output frequency response of the present application, the boost is done with the range of 2KHz to 6KHz by a low pass filter, which differs from the method described in Klayman.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has found in Blachot or Kurisu that would teach or suggest the disclosure missing in Kunugi and Klayman.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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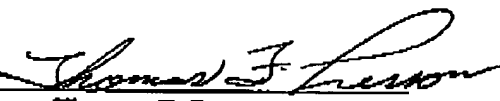
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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